THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes Act,, 1956 the Cauvery Water Disputes between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry has been referred to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal on June 2, 1990. The Tribunal has passed in interim order on June 25, 1991 giving relief to Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Central Government has published the interim order in the official gazette on 10.12.91 making it final and binding on the parties to the disputes. In pursuance of order of the Supreme Court dated 9.4.1997, the Central Government has framed a scheme under Section 6A of the said Act for giving effect to the interim order and all its related subsequent orders. The scheme consists of the Cauvery River Authority (CRA) headed by the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers of the basin States as its members. The Authority is assisted by a Monitoring Committee headed by the Secretary (Water Resources). So far, two meetings of the CRA and five meetings of the Monitoring Committee have been held.

Clearance to Anti Erosion Projects in Kerala

3251. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal seeking assistance to protect erosion works of critical nature in the rivers effected by floods in Kerala is pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accorded sanction for the aforesaid projects of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has submitted 20 nos. of anti river erosion schemes to the Union Government seeking financial assistance.

(c) and (d) A Centrally Sponsored Programme, namely "Critical

anti erosion works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States" at an estimated cost of Rs. 39.98 crore (Central Share Rs. 30 crore) for providing assistance to all Coastal States and all non Ganga Basin States, including Kerala for undertaking coastal and river protection works proposed by this Ministry has been given 'in-principle' clearance by the Planning Commission.

Problem of water in the country

3252. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister while inaugurating a two days seminar recently in May in the capital has told that out of 2.5 billion people in next quarter century in the world, most of these people without access to drinking water will be in India;

(a) whether the Prime Minister has also stressed that the Center and the State alone cannot solve the problem and the situation do need the services of NGOs, VOs, industrial houses and citizens; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to get their real cooperation in order to solve this ticklish issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a scheme at a cost of Rs. 25.00 crore for "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water". The scheme envisages construction of various recharge structures in over-exploited and dark blocks of the country. There is a provision for participation of NGOs for implementation of various works under this scheme. The Central Ground Water Authority has organised mass awareness programmes for educating and enlisting the cooperation and participation of NGOs/VOs/industrial houses/citizens in various Government programmes relating to water management.

The National Human Resources Development Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development which was set up to build up a human resource base of appropriately trained personnel to serve